

Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board

Meeting Summary

January 29, 2009

Comfort Inn Conference Center, Tumwater, WA

Strait of Juan de Fuca	Steve	Tharinger
San Juan Islands	Bob	Kelly
Whidbey Island - alternate	Bill	Blake
Hood Canal	Teri	King
South Central Puget Sound	Ron	Sims
North Central Puget Sound	Steve	Bauer
South Puget Sound	Dan	Wrye
Business Interest	Sam	Anderson
Business Interest - alternate	Allison	Butcher
Environmental Interest	Jacques	White
Environmental Interest - alternate	Naki	Stevens
Cities	Jeanne	Burbidge
Counties	Dave	Somers
Ports	John	Calhoun
Tribal Government	David	Troutt
Tribal Government	Randy	Kinley
Tribal Government	Dave	Herrera
Federal Government	Barry	Thom
Federal Government	Ken	Berg
Federal Government	Tom	Eaton
Washington State Agencies – designee	Josh	Baldi
Washington State Agencies - designee	Lisa	Veneroso
Washington State Agencies	Peter	Goldmark

LC Members Present:

- Bill Ruckelshaus

Staff:

- David Dicks, Executive Director
- Martha Neuman, Action Agenda Director
- Jim Cahill, Director of Accountability and Budget
- Michael Grayum, Director of Public Affairs
- Mary Beth Brown, Accountability Specialist
- Tammy Owings, Special Assistant to the Ecosystem Coordination Board
- Terry Wright, Special Assistant to the Tribes

It is intended that this summary be used along with notebook materials provided for the meeting. A full recording of this meeting is retained by PSP as the formal record.

Action Items:

- Approval of November 10, 2008, Meeting Summary
- Approval of 2009 Meeting Schedule

Meeting Summary:

- Partnership Update
- Implementing the Action Agenda

- Financing and Legislative Strategy
- General Board Business

10:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER – Ron Sims, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Chair Sims welcomed everyone and reviewed the meeting agenda for the day.

Approval of November 10, 2008, Meeting Summary

David Troutt **MOVED** to approve the November 10, 2008, meeting summary. Dave Somers **SECONDED**. Board **APPROVED** the meeting summary as presented.

Approval of 2009 ECB Meeting Schedule

Board **APPROVED** the 2009 meeting scheduled as presented with meetings on:

- January 29, 2009,
- April 23, 2009,
- July 30, 2009, and
- October 14, 2009.

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP UPDATE – David Dicks

David Dicks provided an overview of staff work since the last meeting, noting that now that the Action Agenda has been approved, the focus is on implementation.

- Michael Grayum will provide more detail on the 2009 legislative session later in the agenda. The budget forecast is not good and it looks like the state's deficit may go as high as \$8 billion. To give the legislators more time to work on the budget issues, the cutoff date has been moved to later in the session.
- The governor's budget proposes significant cuts for most agencies, but comparatively the Partnership's budget did fairly well - showing the governor's commitment to the restoration of Puget Sound. Jim Cahill will discuss this more in his presentation later in the agenda.
- One good news item is that a lot of money will be coming to the state through the stimulus package and will be available to fund projects in the Action Agenda. Jim will also provide more information on this.
- We need to catalyze actions for on-the-ground projects and make sure we succeed. Jim Kramer will lead a discussion on the Integration Task Force's suggestions on how to coordinate efforts at the local level.

- The Partnership is looking at a slight reorganization for the agency. The Leadership Council had a retreat earlier in the month to start this discussion. David reported that Ron Sims joined the group for a short time, as did Science Panel chair Joel Baker. David is looking forward to discussing this with the ECB later in the agenda.

He thanked everyone for all the efforts last year in development of the Action Agenda.

IMPLEMENTING THE ACTION AGENDA – Bill Ruckelshaus, David Dicks, Ron Sims, and Jim Kramer (See meeting materials for details.)

Bill Ruckelshaus led off the discussion wanting to see the reaction of the ECB on this report, as it needs to be supported by the local groups before anything can be successful.

The question before the Board is: *Now that the Leadership Council has adopted the Action Agenda, what does the ECB need to do to get to the “how”?*

Bill noted that implementation of the plans is where other efforts have failed and that getting the Action Agenda implemented is going to be the hard part. Money won't be adequate to implement the plan in this economy, but we need to be ready and organized to get to work as soon as money is available. We need to show that government works, help action areas succeed, and implement the plan.

Lands Commissioner Goldmark noted that he is looking forward to helping in this effort. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) can help and he will do everything he can to implement and help the Action Agenda to be successful. He will be reviewing current DNR practices with the clean up and recovery of the Sound in mind.

Jim Kramer introduced himself and explained how the Local Integration Task Force Report was developed and why. He then walked through the report.

The Task Force was made up of a diverse group of representatives who had three meetings to develop the draft recommendation. Once the draft was complete they had a workshop to include a larger group of interests to get feedback for the final recommendation.

Development of this recommendation was going on during the same time as the Action Agenda was being developed, so they weren't able to use the full Action Agenda. But they did use the three primary actions outlined by the Partnership (protect, restore, and reduce sources of pollution).

The report recommends the Partnership:

- Build on existing groups and foster collaboration,

- Integrate local efforts to protect and restore ecosystem processes and reduce sources of water pollution (no silos) (There is concern with creation of a new group that would cause confusion.),
- Ensure science is integral,
- Encourage diverse leadership,
- Assure objectivity, transparency, and inclusiveness in assessing results, and
- Conduct annual or biennial reviews.

The Task Force recommended how the Partnership should select the groups to represent the areas:

- First, establish and clarify roles, responsibilities, and support for the group,
- Once outlined, ask for the process to be conducted for each area and have them bring the recommendations forward, and then
- Make the decision and develop a contract with the groups to make sure efforts are efficient and effective.

Successful integration at the local scale will require support from both the state and federal governments. The groups will need the state and federal governments to:

- Set clear goals, outcomes, and strategies,
- Ensure accountability,
- Provide adequate, dedicated, and integrated funding,
- Coordinate monitoring and data management,
- Support learning and innovation,
- Create an overarching education strategy and key message, and
- Facilitate collaboration and solutions on Sound wide issues.

Jim noted that with the current state of the economy and with budget cuts, we are seeing a loss of the structures that have been built in the past. We need to find a way to support these groups before the structure is lost.

ECB comments included:

- This should be a bottom up effort
- The central theme is to get money to the implementers to do the work outlined in the Action Agenda
- Concern with the geographical areas covered by the various groups
- Concern that a new model on top of the current efforts could be conceived as having winners and losers (would need to have the Partnership help facilitate the process to avoid this)
- Need to address the current regional structure of the Action Areas
- Need guidance on the big picture – what parts of the Action Agenda do we tackle first?
- Need to promote a larger view of the world than just the Action Agenda and include links to health, education, etc. plans

- Need to look at the whole patient and identify a process to be able to do this that works for each of the individual areas, as each area is unique in its organization
- Tribes are concerned that this is another state agency and that things will not get done
- Tribes need to have the funds to be able to do the work
- Need to see the big picture – tribes have always looked in a holistic way – this needs to be done by all the groups
- Continuity over time is important
- Some local groups are concerned with having a new organization created and losing their significance
- Need to be able to show funders that we are being efficient with the funds

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment requests received.

FINANCING & LEGISLATIVE STRATEGIES – Jim Cahill and Michael Grayum

Legislative Strategy

Michael Grayum provided the legislative strategy portion of this agenda item, explaining how the Partnership is trying to keep the Puget Sound a top priority in the legislative session.

Michael discussed the proposed district bill explaining that although there was support for the vision and mission there are also timing and economic concerns. So are deciding to hold off at this time and focus on getting the base laid first before going forward with this bill.

There are a number of bills the Partnership will be tracking and lending support to. Some include:

- Implementing transfer of development rights
- Pilot vessel amnesty
- Emergency response tug
- Environmental permits

Naki Stevens reported on bills that People for Puget Sound has been supporting. One has to do with raising revenue for Puget Sound. This is an environmental community bill that will “invest in clean water” and levies a fee on petroleum products as they come into the state. A “polluter-pays” fee that would raise \$100 million each year and would go toward stormwater improvements (HB1614).

Another bill People for Puget Sound is supporting would provide a year-round tug at Neah Bay (HB1409). And last is a bill to address the shortfall in Ecology’s water quality program for NPDES projects.

Michael noted that it is important for groups to provide a position on the various bills since agencies can't lobby for specific bills.

Naki agreed but noted agencies can provide facts on the bills.

Budget Strategy

Jim Cahill provided the state budget and funding issues portion of this agenda item. (See meeting materials for details.)

Jim reviewed the governor's budget proposal with the ECB.

He reported that the Stimulus Package could provide significant funding for Puget Sound, but it is difficult to tell right now due to match requirements and other requirements. At one point Jim saw a number of \$43 million for Washington, but there are still a lot of different things in play.

David Dicks noted that if groups have shovel-ready projects and don't think we have them yet, they should get them to us. He also discussed how once the money comes, we will have to recalibrate what funds to use for which projects (stimulus, state, or federal funds). The Partnership is getting ready to do this once the funds come in and is working with the federal agencies to make the decisions.

ACTION AGENDA – Martha Neuman and Mary Beth Brown (See meeting materials for details.)

Martha Neuman led off this discussion reporting that we have a new deadline coming up for the State of the Sound: November 1, 2009.

Martha and Mary Beth Brown reviewed the process that the Partnership is proposing for the development of an accountability system and other processes needed to develop the State of the Sound report.

Mary Beth is looking at a collaborative process to get performance agreements in place and will be starting with the state agencies.

Dan Wrye asked about the Partner designation.

David Dicks provided thoughts around this statutory requirement and noted that the Partnership is supposed to designate "partners" through some yet-to-be-developed criteria. Designation as a "partner" is an incentive system to provide the partners additional points when ranking projects to receive Puget Sound grant funds. How to designate groups will take some thought and could be very controversial. We will need a transparent process for development of the criteria. David hopes to get started on this soon and will update the ECB on the status at the April meeting.

Josh Baldi noted that Mary Beth mentioned performance agreements and asked if the Partnership is planning to use this for all groups or use other ways to monitor progress. Mary Beth responded that this is still up in the air and needs to be further discussed.

The group noted how one difference between the old Puget Sound Action Team and the Puget Sound Partnership is the addition of the accountability piece.

The group also talked about the need to be strategic since we won't be able to do everything in the Action Agenda right away. We will need to prioritize and work through what can be done with and without funding. Although funding is needed to complete most of the Action Agenda priorities, there are also things in the Action Agenda that don't take money and we need to start working on this. The Partnership staff is developing that list and will provide to the ECB when complete.

HIGHLIGHTS AND PARTNERSHIP NEWS

ECONet Summit:

Paul Bergman provided the ECONet report for Kristen Cooley. He noted that on January 28, 175 of the current 250 organizations involved came together for an ECONet Summit. This summit was a start to help figure out a way to harness all the energy that is out there working for the environment, coordinate efforts, and get everyone on the same message. For more information on this effort, there is a link on the Puget Sound Partnership Web site:

<http://www.psp.wa.gov/econet.php>.

Bill Ruckelshaus provided his thoughts noting that it was an interesting summit with groups that you wouldn't necessarily think about. One of the powers that the Partnership has is the convening power, and if you see groups that should be working together that aren't, you can ask the Partnership to help facilitate this effort. The ECONet seems like a good use of the convening power.

Puget Sound Georgia Basin Conference:

Martha Neuman reported on the Puget Sound Georgia Basin Conference scheduled for February 8-11 in Seattle at the Washington State Convention Center. This conference centers around the Salish Sea and will be an interactive program between panel and audience members. The planning team is expecting about 1,000 to attend the conference. More information can be found on the Partnership Web page at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwconf/psgb/>.

Other Upcoming Events:

- PBS is running a Frontline documentary on April 21 comparing and contrasting Puget Sound to Chesapeake Bay. There may be a prescreening of this documentary; more information to come
- March 6 there is a "build green" conference; keynote is Robert Kennedy Jr.
www.builtgreen.net

- April 23 next ECB meeting http://www.psp.wa.gov/EB_meetings.php
- May 6 is a South Puget Sound Science Symposium
<http://www.psp.wa.gov/southsoundscience.php>

ADJOURN

Chair Sims adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Ecosystem Coordination Board Approval



Ron Sims, Chair

Date

4/23/09

Next Meeting: April 23, 2009
 GA Auditorium
 Olympia, Washington